

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

GAC-01 ACDA-19 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-11 RSR-01 /114 W

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R 240824 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3369

CINCPAC CP H M SMITH HI

INFO DOD WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

COMUSJAPAN FUCHU

CDRUSARJ CP ZAMA JAPAN

COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA

CG 5 TH AF FUCHU JAPAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 5056

JOINT EMBASSY/ COMUSJAPAN MESSAGE

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR JA

SUBJ: FIRST MEETING SECURITY CONSULTATIVE GROUP

SUMMARY: FIRST CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETING SUCCEEDED IN PROMOTING ATMOSPHERE OF FRANK DISCUSSION OF SOME MAJOR SECURITY ISSUES. JAPANESE PARTICIPANTS SEEMED FORTHRIGHT AND RESPONSIVE TO DISCUSSION OF MATTERS POSED IN THEIR PRESENTATIONS. OKAWARA AND KUBO SPOKE ON DIET DELIBERATIONS IMPACTING ON SECURITY RELATIONSHIP AND JDA, RESPECTIVELY; AND TAKAMATSU ADDRESSED ISSUE OF ADDITIONAL BASE CONSOLIDATIONS. PRESS TREATMENT OF MEETING HAS BEEN LOW KEY BUT INDICATES THAT ROJ PARTICIPANTS MADE SOMEWHAT MORE EXTENSIVE DISCLOSURE THAN WE HAD HOPED OR ANTICIPATED. END SUMMARY.

1. AFTER POSTPONEMENT ONE WEEK AT GOJ REQUEST, FIRST CONFIDENTIAL

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MEETING SECURITY CONSULTATIVE GROUP WAS HELD APRIL 23 AT FONOFF. ATTENDING FOR GOJ WERE FONMIN DEPUTS VICE MINISTER TOGO, NORTH AMERICAN BUREAU DIRECTOR- GENERAL OKAWARA, DFAA DIRECTOR- GENERAL TAKAMATSU, JDA DEFENSE

BUREAU KUBO AND CHAIRMAN JOINT STAFF COUNCIL GENERAL NAKAMURA. PARTICIPANTS FOR US WERE DCM SHOESMITH, POL/ MIL COUNSELOR SCHMITZ, COMUSJAPAN LT GEN PURSLEY, AND USFJ CHIEF OF STAFF MAJ GEN SNOWDEN.

2. DCM OPENED MEETING WITH STATEMENT THAT HE HOPED THAT GROUP, OVER TIME, COULD ACHIEVE (A) CLEARER DEFINITION OF OUR MUTUAL AND SEPARATE SECURITY INTERESTS AND (B) AGREEMENT ON HOW BEST TO REALIZE THOSE INTERESTS (E. G., US BASE STRUCTURE IN JAPAN).

3. OKAWARA DESCRIBED SECURITY ISSUES RAISED IN DIET DURING PAST SESSION. HE POINTED OUT THAT OPPOSITION PARTIES HAD NOT RPT NOT BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN HEAD- ON ATTACKS AGAINST US- JAPAN SECURITY RELATIONSHIP, DESPITE ENVIRONMENT OF

RAPPROCHEMENT IN AREA, AND HAD CONCENTRATED THEIR TACTICS ON MINOR, PERIPHERAL ISSUES. THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE DEBATE CAUSED BY THE JANUARY 23 SCC AGREEMENTS ON BASE CONSOLIDATIONS, WITH PRINCIPAL EMPHASIS BEING PLACED ON INTERPRETATION OF SOFA ARTICLE

24. OPPOSITION CLAIMED THAT GOJ WAS INTERPRETING ARTICLE BROADLY AS RESULT OF SECRET AGREEMENT PRIOR TO OKINAWA REVERSION, AND GOJ DEFENDED ITSELF ON BASIS THAT ARTICLE 24 IS PROPERLY INTERPRETED BY GOJ AS PERMITTING KINDS OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED IN JANUARY 23 AGREEMENT. OKAWARA POINTED OUT THAT THERE HAD BEEN ALMOST NO RPT NO MENTION OF PRIOR CONSULTATION IN DIET DEBATES, PROBABLY CAUSED BY ENDING OF US

PARTICIPATION IN VIETNAM WAR, WHICH MAY HAVE DRAINED PRIOR CONSULTATION QUESTION OF MOST POLITICAL VALUE. OPPOSITION PARTIES ALSO HAD CRITICIZED FORMATION OF CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON GROUNDS THAT IT MIGHT BE USED FOR JOINT MILITARY PLANNING. OKAWARA SAID THAT OPPOSITION HAD BEEN STRIDENT IN ITS DEMANDS THAT GOJ PRESS US FOR LARGE SCALE BASE CONSOLIDATIONS ON OKINAWA. CONFIDENTIAL

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WITH REFERENCE TO RECENT TRANSPORTATION OF AMMUNITION BY US TO VIETNAM, OKAWARA SAID THAT OPPOSITION HAD BEEN PREPARED TO MAKE BIG ISSUE OF MATTER BUT THAT GOJ HAD RECEIVED SUFFICIENT INFORMATION FROM US TO BE ABLE TO REFUTE THE CHARGES IN DIET. OKAWARA IDENTIFIED ALSO THE MIDWAY FAMILY RESIDENCE PROGRAM AND AID USE OF CAMP KUE AS ISSUES CAUSING DIET CONTROVERSY.

4. KUBO PROVIDED BRIEF OUTLINE OF DIET DEBATE AS IT IMPACTED ON JDA, AND HE OBSERVED THAT DEBATE CERTAINLY WAS EVIDENCE THAT THERE IS NO BROAD TENDENCY IN JAPAN FOR RESURGENCE OF JAPANESE MILITARISM. THE OPPOSITION PARTIES HAVE FORMED A UNIFIED STRUGGLE AGAINST THE

FOURTH DEFENSE BUILD-UP PLAN (DBP), AND IT APPEARS THAT THE ATTITUDE OF JAPANESE PEOPLE TOWARDS THE SELF-DEFENSE FORCES HAS WORSENERED. KUBO CITED A RECENT POLL TO SUPPORT HIS COMMENTS. NONETHELESS, KUBO CONFIDENT

FOURTH DBP WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED AS APPROVED BY CABINET. PRINCIPAL CRITICISMS IN DIET OF SDF WERE PROBLEMS IN RECRUITING AND RISING COSTS OF PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT. KUBO EXPECTS FUTURE DIET DEBATE CONCERNING SDF TO FOCUS ON TWO MINOR PIECES OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION; ONE TO INCREASE AUTHORIZED SIZE OF SDF BY SEVEN THOUSAND AND ONE TO ESTABLISH A MILITARY MEDICAL SCHOOL. KUBO POINTED OUT THAT INCREASE OF PERSONNEL IS RELATED TO GOJ OBLIGATIONS TO ASSUME OKINAWA DEFENSE RESPONSIBILITY.

5. TAKAMATSU DESCRIBED SCC JANUARY 23 AGREEMENT AS HAVING HAD GOOD EFFECT AND AS WELCOME TO JAPANESE PEOPLE. ADMITTING THAT THE AGREEMENT PRESENTS PROBLEMS FOR DFAA, TAKAMATSU POSED THE QUESTION OF HOW WE SHOULD PROCEED ON BASE CONSOLIDATION ISSUE AND SUGGESTED THAT WE MUST TURN OUR ATTENTION TO OKINAWA, WHERE BASE DENSITY IS ONE HUNDRED FIFTY TIMES THAT OF AINLAND JAPAN. RENERAL PURSLEY STIMULATED DISCUSSION OF WHETHER OR NOT GOJ COULD HANDLE ANY ADDITIONAL BASE CONSOLIDATIONS, GIVEN PROBLEMS ALREADY APPARENT IN ADMINISTRATION OF GRANT HEIGHTS/ GREEN PARK RELOCATION PROGRAM, KPCP DIFFICULTIES, AND POSSIBILITY OF LABOR

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AND MATERIAL SHORTAGE ON OKINAWA. GOJ PARTICIPANTS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT GOJ RESOURCES MAY NOT RPT NOT BE LIMITLESS AND THAT THEY WOULD WELCOME OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE IN PRELIMINARY, INFORMAL DISCUSSION WITH US REPRESENTATIVES PRIOR TO MAKING ANY DEFINITE PROPOSAL TO US RESPECTING OKINAWA BASE CONSOLIDATIONS. DCM POINTED OUT IMPORTANCE OF RECONCILING EFFORTS TO RELIEVE POLITICAL PRESSURES FOCUSED ON US MILITARY PRESENCE WITH CONTINUING SECURITY REQUIREMENTS.

6. GENERAL NAKAMURA REMAINED SILENT THROUGHOUT.

7. IT WAS AGREED THAT SCG SECOND MEETING WOULD TAKE PLACE MAY 14 AND THAT PRINCIPAL FOCUS OF THAT MEETING WOULD BE US PRESENTATION RELATING TO NEW SITUATION POSED BY VIETNAM CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENT AND CURRENCY EXCHANGE ADJUSTMENTS.

8. PRESS TREATMENT OF FIRST GROUP MEETING WAS LOW KEY AND FACTUAL. MAJOR PROBLEM, HOWEVER, IS THAT NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS CARRIED FULLER DESCRIPTIONS OF ACTUAL PROCEEDINGS OF GROUP MEETING THAN HAD BEEN AGREED UPON BETWEEN EMBASSY AND FONOFF. SINCE EXTENSIVE BRIEFING

OF PRESS FOLLOWING GROUP MEETINGS IS DESTRUCTIVE OF
CONFIDENTIAL AND FORTHRIGHT EXCHANGES OF VIEW WHICH WE
HOPE TO ENCOURAGE IN GROUP MEETINGS, EMBASSY PLANS
AGAIN EMPHASIZE IMPORTANCE OF CONFIDENTIALITY IF SCG
TO SERVE PURPOSES ORIGINALLY INTENDED.
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